

AGENDA ITEM VII A 2

PROGRESS REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY- BATON ROUGE

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In December 2005, the Board of Regents granted conditional approval for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Southern University in Baton Rouge (SUBR), as follows:

Conditional approval is granted for the Master of Business Administration (CIP Code 52.0201) at Southern University and A&M College, effective immediately, but subject to stipulations as indicated below.

- 1. By March 1, 2006, a Progress Report demonstrating resolution of outstanding concerns listed below shall be due to the Commissioner of Higher Education:**
 - a. Development of admission criteria consistent with observations in the staff summary;**
 - b. Revision of the academic probation policy and mechanism for its distribution to students admitted into the program;**
 - c. Development of a schedule, instructions and uniform assessment tools for evaluating the capstone project as the comprehensive examination and an explanation of its role in student matriculation;**
 - d. Establishment of any unique academic requirements for students concentrating in the International Business and Trade;**
 - e. Development of a schedule for faculty SAP training;**
 - f. Establishment of a schedule for graduate student access to computer labs after class hours;**
 - g. Development of a revised budget reflecting line items for SAP training, program promotion and student placement services, as well as realistic salaries for AACSB credentialed faculty. This budget shall be developed and approved consistent with staff observations in the previous section; and**

- h. Identification of members and a proposed schedule for topics/activities of the MBA Advisory Board.**
- 2. Additionally, by August 1, 2006, a Progress Report demonstrating resolution of outstanding concerns listed below shall be due to the Commissioner of Higher Education:**
 - a. Evidence of hiring of a full-time permanent program director, administrative assistant and one full-time faculty in accountancy for Fall 2006; and**
 - b. Evidence of placement services for MBA graduates; funding for this service must be delineated.**
- 3. Additionally, by August 1, 2007, a Progress Report demonstrating resolution of outstanding concerns listed below shall be due to the Commissioner of Higher Education:**
 - a. Evidence of hiring of a second full-time faculty in accountancy and plans for the advertisement and employment of two additional full-time graduate faculty during AY 2007-08; and**
 - b. Because SUBR's College of Business is scheduled for re-accreditation by AACSB during 2007, a copy of any communication from AACSB pertinent to the MBA program should be included in the report**
- 4. Based upon information provided in the required Progress Reports, subsequent additional reports addressing any continuing unresolved ERC concerns may be required. Because of the importance of the development of a Master of Business Administration program of high quality at Southern University and A&M College, additional consultation with external consultants may be needed.**

By August 1, 2006, a Progress Report demonstrating resolution of outstanding concerns listed below shall be due to the Commissioner of Higher Education:

- a. Evidence of hiring of a full-time permanent program director, administrative assistant and one full-time faculty in accountancy for Fall 2006; and**
- b. Evidence of placement services for MBA graduates; funding for this service must be delineated.**

In April, 2006, the Board took the following subsequent action:

The Board of Regents receives the First Progress Report Relative to Implementation of the Master of Business Administration Program at Southern University in Baton Rouge. The next report, as specified in the original Board action, shall be due to the Commissioner of Higher Education in August, 2006.

In August, 2006, the Regents again acted:

The Board of Regents receives the Second Progress Report Relative to Implementation of the Master of Business Administration Program at Southern University-Baton Rouge. In addition to other previously required reports, an interim report addressing the three concerns listed in the staff summary shall be due to the Commissioner of Higher Education by December 1, 2006.

The interim report was received by the Board of Regents staff on December 7, 2006. The additional concerns include:

Hiring of an administrative assistant
Hiring one full-time faculty in accountancy for Fall 2006
Evidence of placement services for MBA graduates

STAFF ANALYSIS

1. Hiring of a full-time administrative assistant for the program director

An administrative assistant for the program director was hired at the beginning of the fall semester.

2. Hiring of a full-time faculty in accountancy

Three candidates were interviewed for the accountancy position during the fall semester; SUBR plans to interview an additional candidate in February 2007. The MBA accounting course offered Fall 2006 was taught by a PhD graduate faculty in accountancy. A part-time faculty who has completed all requirements for his PhD in accounting from LSU except his dissertation remains on the faculty. His credentials qualify him as academically satisfactory based upon AACSB International criteria.

The institution repeats that it is considering hiring a professionally qualified individual on a part-time basis and is advertising two accounting faculty positions. SUBR states that it will make the offers necessary to fill the positions, despite a shortage of PhD faculty in accounting, with academically qualified faculty as required by the programmatic accreditor AACSB.

3. Establishment of placement services for MBA graduates

During the fall semester, a team of three employees of the University's Office of Career Services(UOCS) handled the following for MBA students:

- Orientation session on Career Services
- Exxon/Career Services presentation on corporate ethics
- On-line registration assistance
- Individual counseling sessions

SUBR indicates that is recruiting a development coordinator for the College of Business. Duties of the position will include the coordination and development of placement services for MBA graduates, in conjunction with the UOCS.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. The position for an administrative assistant to the Associate Dean of the College of Business/MBA Program Director has been filled.
2. The inability of the institution to hire the stipulated accounting faculty is a growing concern in light of the need for another FT faculty in accountancy stipulated for the Fall 2007. A cadre of permanent FT faculty in pertinent fields is necessary to grow the program. SUBR must find more effective means of recruiting faculty in accounting. The staff suggests that contacts made through the advisory board might be useful. The University may also want to pursue funding for an endowed chair to attract suitable applicants.
3. While some services were provided for MBA students/graduates, the formal placement process has not been established. The staff suggests that completion of the process is necessary by the fall of 2007, the time at which the next scheduled progress report on the program is due.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the Third Progress Report Relative to Implementation of the Master of Business Administration Program at Southern University-Baton Rouge. The University shall submit a interim progress report by March 15, 2007 to the Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs concerning progress toward ultimate solution of issues 2 and 3 above. Beyond this deadline, the next progress report shall be due by August 1, 2007, as previously required.